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ROMANCE OF GENEALOGY

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ROMANCE OF GENEALOGY

CHAPTER I

GENEALOGY IN AMERICA

TRUTH is stranger than fiction and by the same token there is often more of romance in fact than in fancy. The novelist of sympathetic temperament finds an endless store of material for his pen, in the migrations and colonial life of our early American forefathers. Their hardships and privations, their heroic sacrifices, so filled with stern reality, had yet a lighter side which one who looks may see.

The birth of a nation, the prenatal influences which contributed to shape its character and its destiny, the daily life of its common people, belong to the skilled historian to describe. He will delight to show that the typical American character is truly a composite creation. He will show how much of optimism was derived from the buoyancy of the Huguenots who, driven from home by religious persecution and indeed anxious to throw off the dust of their native land, yet never lost their natural heritage of light-hearted gaiety. He will show the parts played, during that formative period, by the Dutch, the Germans and the English who severally bequeathed their quiet deliberation, caution and thriftiness, their patient persistence and their indefatigability in the face of the greatest odds. He will show how much or how many of these attributes have been lost, modified or emphasized by later generations, or how they have been adapted to new conditions. Those are realms which the mere genealogist perhaps ought not to invade. He may, however, be permitted to glance, ever and anon, between the branches of an old ancestral tree, to see, about it and beyond, a little of the broad plain of human life extending on every side.

Without any departure from democratic principles, the study of family history in the United States has been approached from many standpoints since our second President, John Adams, expressed his views, too forcibly, in a letter to Hannah Adams, "the author of the first book written by a woman in America." "You and I," he wrote, "are undoubtedly related by birth, and although we were both born in 'humble

obscurity' [she had made this reference to herself in one of her dedications to him], yet I presume neither of us has any cause to regret that circumstance."

"If I could ever suppose that family-pride was in any case excusable, I should think a descent from a line of virtuous, independent New England farmers for one hundred and sixty years was a better foundation for it than a descent through royal and titled . . . ever since the Flood."

These words call to mind those concluding the first chapter of Irving's *Life of Washington*: "Hereditary rank may be an illusion; but hereditary virtue gives a patent of innate nobleness beyond all the blazonry of the Herald's College." Washington, himself, responded at some length to a request for an account of his family, although he had little time or inclination for such research.

"Poor Richard's" autobiography evinces clearly enough that he investigated the genealogy of the Franklin family, but one is a little startled by the fact, developed some years ago, that he made of it a protracted study.

There have been many Americans of undoubted democracy who have undertaken more or less extensive genealogical research or have confessed that pedigree is something more than a word. In the present generation we have had Oliver Wendell Holmes, in "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," declaring, somewhat facetiously, it is true, in favor of "a man of family," while James G. Blaine has told us that "President Garfield was proud of his blood; and, with as much satisfaction as if he were a British nobleman reading his stately ancestral record in Burke's 'Peerage,' he spoke of himself as ninth in descent from those who would not endure the oppression of the Stuarts, and seventh in descent from the brave French Protestants who refused to submit to tyranny even from the Grand Monarque."

"General Garfield delighted to dwell on these traits, and, during his only visit to England, he busied himself in searching out every trace of his forefathers in parish-registers and in ancient army-rolls. Sitting with a friend in the gallery of the House of Commons one night, after

a long day's labor in this field of research, he said, with evident elation, that in every war in which for three centuries patriots of English blood had struck sturdy blows for constitutional government and human liberty, his family had been represented. They were at Marston Moor, at Naseby, and at Preston; they were at Bunker Hill, at Saratoga and at Monmouth; and in his own person had battled for the same great cause in the war which preserved the Union of the States."

NOTES

Washington's pedigree, *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. xxxiii, pages 200-208; October, 1902.

"Benjamin Franklin as a Genealogist," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. xxiii, No. 1, pages 1-22 (1899).

"Memorial address on the Life and Character of President Garfield," by James G. Blaine; Washington, D. C., 27 February, 1882, pages 6-8.

Notes and Queries (London), tenth series, Vol. ii, pp. 63-64 (July 23, 1904).

CHAPTER II

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE BRITISH SURNAME PIKE OR PYKE

IT is interesting, instructive and sometimes a little amusing, to study closely the divergent opinions of experts on obscure points of local history or genealogy.

According to one authority, the surname Pyke is derived from the Flemish Pycke, a personal name, and by a cross-reference given to Peak, and again (under "Pike") to Peake (all personal names), a connection with other families is at least implied. Peak is given as of Scandinavian or Teutonic origin (Cp. "British Family Names," by Henry Barber; London, 1894).

Indeed, we find a Swedish noun, *pik* = a weapon, and a Swedish verb *peka* = to point.

An American authority on Irish immigration says: "The name Pike is quite common in Ireland, but I can find no such name as Mac-Pike, and it is an unnatural combination for either Ireland or Scotland. It is an Irish name *pice*, the weapon, and the English is pronounced as the Irish word and taken from it, the *c* in Irish being pronounced *k*."

In some old Scottish archives ("Calendar of Inner Temple Records," vol. II., James I., Restoration, 1603-1660), the names Peke, Peyc, Pick, appear. In a subsequent volume the forms Pick, Pick and Pickering occur. However, a preliminary but fairly exhaustive search (in 1910) of certain printed records accessible in Edinburgh, failed to reveal any examples of the names Pike, Pyke, McPike or McPyke, except that a very few quite modern instances of Pike were noted.

Dr. John Milne, writing in *Scottish Notes and Queries* (Aberdeen, 1906) remarks: "There is a Celtic word, *pic*, a point. It is prefixed to many pointed mountains in France, being a remnant of the Celtic tongue once spoken there. It is common in Aberdeenshire in the name *Piketillum* from *pic*, point: and *tolm*, a hill or hillock. In Kincardine a long piece of slate pencil is called a pike. In the Register of the Town Council of Aberdeen the name of a man who lived at Justice Mill is Thomas of Myll, and Thomas Myll. So a man who lived at or on a pointed hill would be in early times "of Pike," and later simply Pike. Mr. "McPike" would be the son of Mr. "Pike."

Dr. J. A. H. Murray, of Oxford, the famous lexicographer, instituted an investigation in the *London Notes and Queries* (July 23, 1904) to discover the history of the words "Peak" and "Pike," and the relationship between them, in their application to pointed mountains or their summits. In requesting information, he cautioned all readers thus: "May I ask that no one will confuse the matter by information about the Peak of Derbyshire. Etymologists now know that that name can have no connection with *pike* or *peak*, a sharp point; and, in any case, it has no bearing whatever upon my inquiry; so I hope it will be left out of the question."

We come now to the consideration of what should, perhaps, be termed the most deliberate and exhaustive attempt to determine, at least for England, the origin of the surname Pike or Pyke. The Rev. Richard Peek, M. A., Rector of the Church of St. Magnus-the-Martyr, London, during a sojourn in Devonshire and Somerset, some years ago, reached the conclusion, after much personal research in parish-registers, etc., that the original patronymic was "de Lucie." He showed that the arms of Lesnes Abbey, founded by Richard De Lucie, in the year 1178, were

(? are): "Gules, Two lucies (pike) Haurient Argent. In pale. A crosier (or)." The word *luce* signifies a pike full grown (Latin: *lucius*), according to Nuttall's English Dictionary. The Rev. Richard Peek believes that the surname De Lucie was anglicized into Pike or Pyke, *circa* 1275-1325. He found also in the church-registers evidence to indicate that the spellings Pike, Pyke, Peek and Peeke were often interchangeable in the same family. He considers, however, that the family of Peak or Peake, properly so spelt, is entirely distinct and originally descended, probably, from the "Peakmen" of Derbyshire, "the land of Dorothy Vernon and the cradle of the Duke of Rutland's family." Nevertheless, the Pikes of Somersetshire, migrating to London, may sometimes have been transformed, against their will, into Peaks or Peakes, by the carelessness of certain parish clerks. Such a transformation would have been facilitated at that time by the "west-country pronunciation" of Pike (*Peek*). The modern student of London parish-registers, finding the spelling "Peake," cannot safely assume that the bearer of that name necessarily descended from the Peakmen of Derbyshire. He may have been a Pike or Pyke of Somersetshire stock. The Rev. Richard Peek is contemplating the publication of a "Book of Peeks" in which this interesting problem will be discussed at length. We may be able, meanwhile, to submit, in our subsequent chapters, some other evidence bearing upon the same subject, at least indirectly.

NOTES

Notes and Queries (London), tenth series, Vol. ii, pp. 61-62 (July 23, 1904).

Scottish Notes and Queries (Aberdeen), second series, Vol. vii, pp. 79, 155, 176 (1905-1906).

"Extracts from British Archives," in "Magazine of History" (New York), 1906-1911 (three series).

CHAPTER III

PIKE OR PYKE FAMILIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

WE shall not strive to find the oldest instance of the name Pyke in the British records, but will rest content with a few early entries:—

It is said that Robert, the brother of Henry Pike, was consecrated Bishop of Lichfield in 1127, and that Richard Pike was consecrated Bishop of Coventry, in 1162. We have not verified these two statements.

August 13, 1324. Richard Pyke was of the Knights Companions of the Bath (K. C. B.).

November 25, 1329. Alexander Pyke, of London, made his will, in which he bequeathed "to Avice his wife his capital tenement in the parish of St. Dunston [East], London, for life; remainder to Nicholas and John, his sons."

March 3rd, 1340. Will of Richard de Gaunt, which mentions Nicholas Pyk, and Johanna, his daughter.

August 10, 1361. Johanna Pyk, relict of Nicholas; mentions "S. Dunstan towards the tower."

1350, Henry Pike, Sub-Dean of Exeter Cathedral.

Sir Richard Pyke, living eighth year reign of Richard II. (*circa* 1385) was granted a coat of arms; had issue and numerous descendants in Somersetshire. Perhaps from this stock was descended one Phillip Pyke, of Banwell, County Somerset, whose younger son, Edward Pyke, a dyer of London, married Anne Jones, a widow whose maiden name was Evans. He was living in 1634, at the visitation of London in that year, and had issue: Michael, Jeremiah, Nathaniel and Ann. The oldest son, Michael, may or may not have been identical with the Michael Pyke, of Cranley, Surrey, clerk, whose will (dated 20 Feb. 1681) gives five pounds to the poor of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. The testator's daughter, Mary Pike, of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, married in 1676, Ed-

ward Trotman, of Hackney, Middlesex, gent. There is record of the will of another Michael Pyke, *alias* Pike, of Surrey, a century later (1780) but this document has not been examined.

The foregoing references to the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, are especially noteworthy, for in that same parish, in 1656, was born Dr. Edmond Halley, the famous second Astronomer Royal of England. We shall later present some documentary evidence to show the relationship existing between the Halley and Pyke families of London and Greenwich, *circa* 1696-1718. At this point, therefore, we must give a few entries relating, in part, to the Pykes who were connected with Halleys.

“Richard Pyke, Senior, of all Hallowes Staynings, London, poult erer, widower, about 67, and Judith Harvey, of the Armitage Bridge, London, widow, about 62, were licensed Dec. 19, 1674, to marry at St. Olave’s, Hart Street, London.” This Judith Harvey, widow, may perhaps have been identical with Judith, wife of one Edmond Harvey of London, who flourished in 1661, according to a sketch in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Richard Pyke, senior, poult erer, may have been the father of his namesake, also a poult erer, in the same parish of All Hallowes Staynings, who is a party to an indenture, dated 21 April, 1694, between Francis Halley of London, Gent.; (son and heir of William Halley, late of Peterborough, in the County of Northampton, Gent.), Edmund Halley of London, Gent. [the astronomer] and Richard Pyke, citizen and poult erer, of London, Gent. . . .” The astronomer Halley was a first cousin of this Francis Halley, senior, who married August 17, 1696, Elliner Pike, “Boath of Althalows Staening,” according to the printed register of the parish of St. Christopher le Stocks. The bride, Elliner Pike, was a daughter of the aforesaid Richard Pyke, junior, poult erer. Some relationship between the Halley and Pyke families before 1696 would seem to be implied by the indenture dated April 21, 1694, but this is mere conjecture. We come now to the will of the younger Richard Pyke, father-in-law of Francis Halley, senior.

“Richard Pyke, late citizen and poult erer of London, now of Chelmsford, Essex; to daughter Jane, wife of Edward Day; to son William Pyke; to granddaughters Mary Bland and Jane Day; grandson

Richard Jones. Residue to son William Pyke. Dated Nov. 18, 1726; proved Dec. 2, 1726."

From many other Pyke wills we select the following as being most relevant:

"William Pyke of Greenwich, poultorer; sister Jane Day; brother-in-law Edward Day; nephew Edward Day, silver tankard with my coat of arms engraved on it, to be delivered to him after the decease of my wife Elizabeth Pyke; loving niece Mary Reeve, late Mary Bland, fully provided for by my late dear father, Richard Pyke; uncle John Pyke; cousin Edward Pyke; cousin Archibald Bruce and his wife; dated Sept. 11, 1727; proved Oct. 10, 1727. (P. C. C., reg. Farrant, fo. 240.)"

"John Pyke, citizen and tallow chandler, of London; to dear and loving wife Ann Pyke messuage in Crutched Friars, in the parish of St. Olave's, Hart Street; late uncle Thornbury; daughter Prudence Edmonds; son Edward Pyke; daughters Eleanor Thorpe and Ann Trew and each of their children. Dated July 8, 1729; proved Oct. 16, 1730."

"Edward Pyke, of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey; to in trust for Thomas Blagrave, son of Thomas Blagrave, deceased; Mary Price, daughter of Mr. Price, of the Poultry, surgeon's instrument maker; lands in Wilmington and Sutton, at Lowe, Kent; two freehold messuages in Crutched Friars. Dated Feb. 21, 1766; proved July 20, 1767. (P. C. C., reg. Legard, fo. 278.)"

"Isaac Pyke, of Greenwich, Esquire, late Governor of Saint Helena; some friends to support the pall be chosen, most out of club and myself belonged to, and I think Mr. Halley make up the most part; to Dr. Halley, the Professor ; sister Mary Bradford and Anna her daughter; niece Buffar; nephew John Buffar. Dated Jan. 5, 1730; proved April 10, 1739. (P. C. C., reg. Henchman, fo. 87.)"

At an earlier date, there is a record of the will of Isaac Pyke's mother:—

"Ann Pyke, Aug. 10, 1710; now lieth dangerous ill; my son Isaac Pyke now gone to the East Indies. Administration granted July 7,

1726, to Isaac Pyke, armiger, on account of his near relationship to Anna Pyke, lately of Greenwich."

" Thomas Pyke, of St. John's, Wapping, Middlesex; to be buried in family vault in St. Georges-in-the-East. Freehold estate at Daddington, North Hants. Freehold estate in Gravel Lane to wife Ann Pike for life, then to niece Ann Freeman and her heirs. Silver plate to wife, except one silver tankard with my arms on . . . to sister Sarah Freeman, widow. Dated June 18, 1774; witnesses Henry Crane, William Bowing, Samuel Ravencroft, 64, Crutched Friars. Proved Nov. 26, 1774. (P. C. C.)"

Here we must retrace our steps a little, in order to record the will of " James Pyke, of Upper Moorfield, in the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, silk dyer; sister Mary Cooper, wife of William Cooper of Newgate Street, weaver, sole executrix and residuary legatee; sister Elizabeth Norton wife of Thomas Norton of Refford, Northants, husbandman; nephew Thomas one of sons of late brother William Pyke; nephews and nieces James P., John P., Elizabeth P., and Mary Watson wife of . . . Watson, baker; other children of W. P.; nephew *William P. (son of brother William) and Sarah his wife.* Witnesses: John Parry; Thos. Upton. Dated July 18, 1750. Proved June 21, 1751. (P. C. C., reg. Busby, fo. 186.)"

The words in italics, " nephew William Pyke (son of brother William) and Sarah his wife," relate, no doubt, to the same couple as mentioned in the following marriage license from the Vicar General's Office, London:—

" 28th February, 1746.

William Pyke of the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch in the county of Middlesex, aged twenty-five years, and a Bachelor, and Sarah Day, of the same parish, widow. To marry in the parish church of Saint Bennet, near Paul's Wharfe, London."

It seems quite possible that this Mrs. Sarah Day, widow, may have borne the maiden surname Freeman, and that she may have been a daughter of Mrs. Sybilla Freeman, who, as a widow, aged 40, married

secondly, in 1738, Edmond Halley, junior, a Surgeon in the Royal Navy, the only maturing son of the astronomer Halley. Surgeon Halley had at least one step-daughter Mary Freeman, who in 1744 married John Parry, perhaps identical with the John Parry who witnessed will of James Pyke in 1750. These facts with others will be discussed further in subsequent chapters, relating to the families of Halley and Freeman.

We would like to discover that William Pyke and Sarah, his wife, (married 1746) had a son James (born *circa* 1750-51) and a daughter Mary who married (*circa* 1770) "a M'Donald of Ireland." There is, indeed, a record of the baptism, December 15, 1771, of one James, (born Dec. 5), son of James and Mary Macdonald, in the printed register of St. Peter, Paul's Wharf, London, but this may be only a coincidence.

In passing, however, we should mention another marriage license (perhaps irrelevant) in the Vicar-General's Office:

" 27th August, 1755.

John Pyke of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk Street, London, a widower, and Isabella Price, of the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, in the County of Surrey, a spinster, of the age of twenty-six years. To marry in the parish church of Saint Olave, Southwark."

The astronomer Halley's younger surviving daughter, Mrs. Catherine Price, died in 1765, having made her will in 1764 without mentioning any children. She was presumably childless.

As we have already mentioned a connection between the Pike and Harvey families, (*circa* 1674), we will append the will of

"Rebeccah Harvey, of Colledge Hill, London, widow; all to my sister Sarah, wife of Andrew Patten, of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, London, . . . and to my cousin Elizabeth Pyke, daughter of my said sister Sarah. Sarah Patten, executrix. Witnesses: Sarah Bristow, Thos. Langford, clerk to Mr. Skelton. Dated 25 Aug. 1731; proved 30 Aug. 1731, by executor. (P. C. C., reg. Isham, fo. 210.)"

An investigator has asserted that the families of Harvey and Freeman were related.

NOTES

A Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office, London (1900, *etc.*)

Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem and other analogous documents preserved in the Public Record Office, London (1909, *etc.*).

Notes and Queries (London), 10th Series, Vol. viii., pages 44-45 (1907); *et passim*, 1903-1911: *see indexes*.

"Extracts from British Archives" (three series), *MAGAZINE OF HISTORY*, New York, 1905-1911.

"Visitations of Somersetshire" (Weaver), page 64.

Nearly all these notes on the families of Halley and Pyke were supplied by R. J. Beevor, Esq., M. A., of St. Albans, England. Valuable assistance has also been given by Lt.-Col. G. S. Parry, of London, and others, to all whom grateful thanks are extended by the author.

CHAPTER IV

DR. EDMOND HALLEY (1656-1742) AND THE HALLEY FAMILY

THE return of Halley's comet, in 1910, has made the general reader more or less familiar with the remarkable career of that distinguished astronomer. His unique contribution to the science and history of cometic astronomy was only one of his many notable achievements. There are special reasons why we in America should be reminded of Halley, for in 1698 King William III. of England appointed him to the command of the *Paramount*, supposed to have been a British man-of-war, with orders to make observations for the purpose of discovering the rules governing the variations of the magnetic needle. His commission continues in these words: "to call at his Majesty's settlements in America, and make such further observations as are necessary for the better laying down the longitude and latitude of those places, and to attempt the discovery of what lands lie to the south of the western ocean." To this venerable philosopher, therefore, belongs the distinction of having been the first of England's scientific navigators. By a coincidence, at the moment when Halley's comet was within the range of earthly vision, an American investigator, Dr. L. A. Bauer, under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was plying the seas in a specially constructed vessel in pursuit of the mysteries of terrestrial magnetism which gave rise to Halley's two voyages between the years

1698 and 1700. Halley's *Journal* or log-book of those voyages was printed, from the original manuscript, by Sir Alexander Dalrymple, in a "Collection of Voyages in the South Atlantic," published at London, 1775. Copies of this rare work are in the Library of Congress, and the New York Public Library. There are also in existence, in the Public Record Office, London, the originals of about thirty-four letters written by Captain Halley (for so he was called then) addressed to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Born in the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, now part of London, 8th November, 1656, during the Protectorate of Cromwell, Edmond Halley survived one of the most eventful periods of English history. His career was so closely interwoven with that of Newton that the biographer of the latter could scarcely pen the first page of his narrative without at least an implied reference to the former. Their united work constitutes the keystone in the mathematical and astronomical history of the times in which they lived, and that which has been builded since rests upon the same impregnable arch.

Associate member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Paris (1729); Confrère of Hevelius at Dantzig, of Cassini at Paris, of Abbé Nazari at Rome, and of the other principal mathematicians of Europe, Halley, having much traveled, was essentially a cosmopolitan in the world of science. At home in London he was "a man about town," popular with his colleagues and respected by those to whom birth had assigned a higher rank. He was a Gentleman in the English acceptation, for his family bore coat armor; he was a gentleman in that broader sense, not less English than otherwise, which implies much of scholarship, generosity and *bonhomie*. His sprightliness and constant gaiety, sources in part of his popularity, contributed to his success, which however was won by the most arduous and protracted work. Space permits hardly a passing mention of any of his numerous discoveries and writings. The reader's curiosity in this respect will best be served by consulting the late Miss Agnes M. Clerke's admirable sketch of Halley in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The complete story of the comet which bears his name would fill a book, while an adequate account of his researches in terrestrial magnetism and his voyages

connected with that investigation, would occupy an even larger and more ponderous tome. The opinion seems almost universally to be held that Halley's greatest service to posterity lies in his publication of Newton's *Principia*, which, indeed, but for him, as Dr. Glaisher has said, would never have existed, for he not only sought out its immortal author and persuaded him to announce openly his demonstration of the law of gravitation, but actually saw the work through the press and defrayed the expense from his own scanty resources. To the first edition of the *Principia*, Halley prefixed a set of beautiful verses, in Latin hexameter, of which we find this translation:

AN ELEGY ON SIR ISAAC NEWTON, TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN OF DR. HALLEY

Behold the regions of the heav'ns survey'd
 And this fair system in the balance weigh'd!
 Behold the law, which (when in ruin hurl'd
 God out of chaos call'd the beauteous world)
 Th' Almighty fix'd, when all things good he saw!
 Behold the chaste, inviolable law!
 Before us [now] new scenes unfolded lie
 And heav'n appears expanded to the eye:
 Th'illumin'd mind now sees distinctly clear
 What pow'r impels each planetary sphere.
 Thron'd in the center glows the king of day,
 And rules all nature with unbounded sway;
 Thro' the vast void his subject planets run,
 Whirl'd in their orbits by the regal sun.
 What course the dire tremendous comets steer
 We know, nor wonder at their prone career;
 Why silver Phoebe, meek-ey'd queen of night,
 Now slackens, now precipitates her flight;
 Why, scan'd by no astronomers of yore,
 She yielded not to calculation's pow'r;
 Why the Node's motions retrograde we call,
 And why the Apsides progressionnal.
 Hence too we learn, with what proportion'd force
 The moon impels, erroneous in her course,
 The refluent main: as waves on waves succeed,
 On the bleak beach they toss the sea-green weed,
 Now bare the dangers of th'engulfing sand,

Now swelling high roll foaming on the strand.
 What puzzling school-men sought so long in vain,
 See cloud-dispelling Mathesis explain!
 O highly blest, to whom kind fate has given
 Minds to expatiate in the fields of heaven,
 All doubts are clear'd, all errors done away,
 And truth breaks on them in a blaze of day.
 Awake, ye sons of men, arise! exclude
 Far from your breasts all low solicitude;
 Learn hence the mind's æthereal pow'rs to trace,
 Exalted high above the brutal race.
 Ev'n those fam'd chiefs who human life refin'd
 By wholesome laws, the fathers of mankind;
 Or they who first societies immur'd
 In cities, and from violence secur'd;
 They who with Ceres' gifts the nations blest,
 Or from the grape delicious nectar prest;
 They who first taught th' hieroglyphic stile
 On smooth¹ papyrus, native plant of Nile,
 (For literary elements renown'd)
 And made the eye an arbiter of sound;
 All these, tho' men of deathless fame, we find
 Have less advanc'd the good of human-kind:
 Their schemes were founded on a narrower plan,
 Replete with few emoluments to man.
 But now, admitted guests in heav'n, we rove
 Free and familiar in the realms above;
 The wonders hidden deep in earth below,
 And nature's laws, before conceal'd, we know.

Lend

Lend me your aid, ye bright superior pow'rs,
 That live embosom'd in Elysian bow'rs,
 Lend your sweet voice to warble Newton's praise
 Who searcht out truth thro' all her mystic maze,
 Newton, by every fav'ring muse inspir'd,
 With all Apollo's radiations fir'd;
 Newton, that reach'd th' insuperable line,
 The nice barrier 'twixt human and divine.

EUGENIO.

¹ An Egyptian plant, growing in the marshy places near the banks of the Nile, on the leaves of which the antients used to write. (Original note.)

Halley lived to attain his eighty-fifth year and died at Greenwich, 25th January, 1742, leaving to his country and to the world at large a priceless legacy. No branch of human knowledge presents a grander vista or deals more closely with the powers of Omnipotence than the science of the stars. The searcher of the heavens, traversing the ethereal depths with no compass but analogy, has oftentimes a goal invisible. Fancy leads him, like Miller, to the center of that celestial galaxy of transcendent splendor whence the infinite eye beholds worlds upon worlds, universes of universes all circling in perfect harmony.

* * * * *

The coat armorial: "Sable, a fret and a canton argent," has been ascribed to both the Halley and Hawley families of Northamptonshire. Those two spellings appear to have been interchangeable, and in fact are found used indiscriminately sometimes in the same document. Perhaps therefore to the same family-stock from which the famous astronomer descended, may have belonged the Joseph Hawley, born 1609 at Parwich, Derbyshire, who settled at Stratford, Connecticut, in 1630, and died in 1690. We leave this point to some enterprising descendant of the latter to determine by future investigation.

The astronomer's paternal grandfather, Humphrey Halley, senior, vintner, married Katherine Mewce, at Barking, in Essex, 24 November 1617. The bride's brother, Francis Mewce, married 26 May, 1615, Elizabeth Washington, daughter of Lawrence Washington, of Sulgrave, an ancestor of George Washington. The astronomer's father, Edmond Halley, senior, married, first, Ann by whom he had three or more children, of whom only one, the astronomer, survived. The latter's father died in April, 1684, two years after the marriage of his son, in 1682, to Miss Mary Tooke, daughter of Christopher Tooke, auditor of the Exchequer, and Margaret Tooke (born Kinder) his wife. The astronomer's will, dated 1736, proved 1741-2, mentions only three surviving children:—

Margaret Halley, spinster, the elder surviving daughter, who never married, died 13 October, 1743, in the fifty-fifth year of her age, and was buried at Lee, near Greenwich.

Mrs. Catherine Price, the younger daughter, was twice married. Her first husband was Richard Butler, of St. Martin's le-Grand, widower, to whom she was married at Lee, 2 October, 1721. She married secondly, Mr. Henry Price, whose will dated May 31, 1755, proved January 20, 1764, bequeaths all to his wife. Mrs. Catherine Price's will dated 1764, proved 1765, does not mention any children, so it is presumed that she left no issue of either marriage. Her eventual heir was one Halley Benson Milliken who married Elizabeth Parry, daughter of Mrs. Susannah Parry, widow of Leytonstone, Essex (will dated 25 April, 1780; proved 13 November, 1784).

The astronomer's only maturing son, Edmond Halley, junior, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, married Mrs. Sybilla Freeman, widow. Both appear as "of Greenwich" in the "allegation," issued 4 May, 1738, recorded in the Diocesan Registry, Rochester. The marriage-ceremony, on the same date, was perfected in the chapel of Morden College, Blackheath, in Kent. Surgeon Halley died in 1740-41, having made a will giving all to his wife, Sybilla. He was presumably childless, according to other circumstantial but convincing evidence. His widow, in her will (1772) mentions two granddaughters, descendants of her previous marriage with a Freeman.

The Genealogist, new series (London), Vol. xxv.. July, 1908.

Vragen en Mededeelingen (Arnhem, Holland), Vol. I., (1910).

Notes and Queries (London). 1902-1911 (*et seq.*?)

"Extracts from British Archives" (three series), in *MAGAZINE OF HISTORY* (New York 1905-1911).

The Home Counties Magazine, London, 1911 (*et seq.*?)

CHAPTER V

STUART, FREEMAN, DAY AND PARRY FAMILIES

THE mortal remains of Sibilla Stewart found their last resting place in Greyfriars Burying-ground, Edinburgh, Scotland, 14 August, 1698,—“East end kirk,” according to the register of interments published by the Scottish Record Society, in 1902. What a field for the imagination! Were we writing a novel instead of merely recording a few facts, we might be tempted to picture Sibilla Stewart as belonging to a family which saw its brightest and yet many of its darkest days before the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Whether or not she married and left any descendants, collateral or direct, to mourn her decease, we are not informed; nor have we means of knowing whether or not she was in any way related to her namesake, Mrs. Sibella Stuart, of Dublin, whose “prerogative will,” 1760, reads thus:—

“I, Sibella Stuart, widow of James Stuart, late of Lazer’s Hill, Dublin, Gent., deceased, do make this my last will. Therefore, as to all such houses, goods and furniture left to me by my said husband, I bequeath the same to my friend, Mary McDaniel, of Dame St., Dublin, widow, and I appoint her to be executrix of this my will. Signed this 30th Aug., 1760. Sibella Stuart. Witnesses: Patt McKinery, James Neill. Proved 18 Sept., 1760.”

To establish a connection, if any existed, between either of the above Sibillas and members of the Stuart or Stewart family residing in or near London, is no easy task. We shall have to rest content, for the present, with such working-material as may seem available, and that is scarcely worth recording until it begins to assume more definite form.

Certain traditions in the McPike family appear to justify the theory that Stuart or Stewart may have been the maiden surname of Mrs. Sybilla Freeman, of Greenwich, widow, who, aged 40 years, married Surgeon Halley, 4th May, 1738, as already mentioned in a previous chapter. By this new marriage there seems to have been no issue. Mrs. Sybilla Freeman by her previous marriage had, however, a daughter, Mary Freeman, who, as “of Greenwich,” married John Parry “of ye parish of St. Mildred, Breadstreet, London,” July 31, 1744, in the chapel

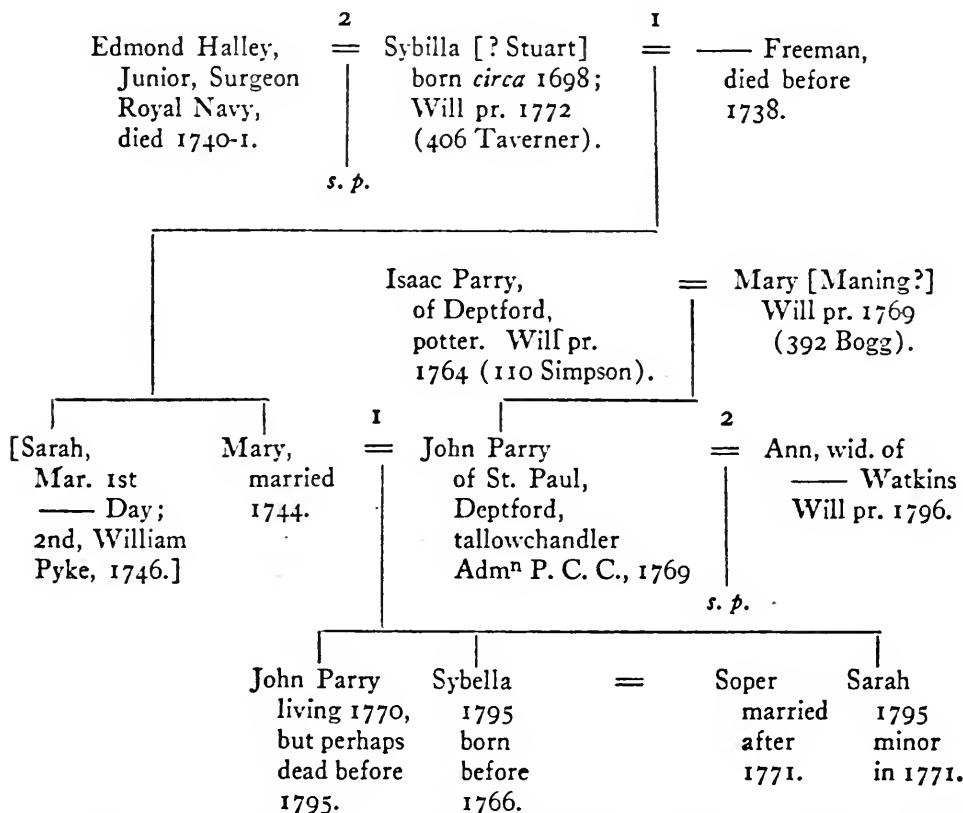
of Morden College, Blackheath, Kent. This Mrs. Mary Parry evidently died before 1766, for in the Diocesan Registry at Rochester is an allegation dated 30 August 1766 by John Parry of Greenwich, Gentleman, a widower, for a License of marriage in the parish church of Greenwich, with Ann Watkins, a widow, of Greenwich.

The latter, as Anne Parry, of Gang Lane, Greenwich, widow of John Parry, made her will, dated 25 Feb. 1795, proved 29 Dec. 1796 (P. C. C., reg. Harris, folio 631), in which are mentioned "Sybella Soper and Sarah Parry, children of my late husband, John Parry." Thus the identity is established, and we have also additional evidence in the will of:

"Sybilla Halley of the parish of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, widow. To grand-daughter, Sybilla Parry, all wearing apparel. To good friend, Catherine Beaumont, wife of John Beaumont, of East Greenwich, lighterman, a ring. Remainder of estate, real and personal, equally to granddaughters, Sybilla Parry and Sarah Parry (Sarah Parry under age). Sybilla Parry and Catherine Beaumont, executrices. Dated May 1, 1771. Witnesses: Thomas Friend, John Woodham, William Munro. Proved Nov. 13, 1772, by Sybilla Parry, power being reserved to Catherine Beaumont. (P. C. C., reg. Taverner, folio 406.)"

The two children, Sybilla and Sarah Parry, were presumably residing with their maternal grandmother. The fact that the latter thought it necessary to provide only for them, does not at all preclude the possibility of other children or descendants. In addition to her daughter, Mary, who married John Parry in 1744, and died before 1766, it seems quite possible that Mrs. Sybilla Freeman had at least one other maturing child, a daughter (? Sarah) who may have been, quite probably was, identical with the Mrs. Sarah Day, of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, widow, who, in 1746, married William Pyke, bachelor, of that same parish, as we have shown in the chapter on the Pyke family. This William Pyke was, it will be remembered, a nephew of James Pyke, of Upper Moorfield, in the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, whose will, dated 1750, was witnessed by one John Parry. If the latter was identical with the John Parry who married Mary Freeman, 1744, (as appears probable), he may have been a brother-in-law of Mrs. Sarah Pyke, formerly Day

(?born Freeman) wife of William Pyke. This point will have to be determined by further investigation of official records,—perhaps the registers of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, where we may eventually find that William Pyke and Sarah, his wife, had at least two children, James, born *circa* 1750-51, and a daughter (? Mary) who married, *circa* 1770, a M'Donald, or Macdonald of Ireland, as already suggested in the chapter on the Pyke family. In the accompanying chart, illustrating this hypothesis, we have given to William and Sarah Pyke a place to which they are not yet fully entitled by documentary evidence:—



Among the wills, etc., preserved at Somerset House, London, is this memorandum dated Jan. 26, 1741:—

" ' Stephen Freeman late of Morden College in the county of Kent, bachelor; sister Nutt, widow of Walter Nutt; Grace Nutt, junr.' " " Thomas Harrison and Bartholomew Nutt make oath June 23, 1746 that this memorandum is in handwriting of Stephen Freeman."

Before leaving the Parry family we must remark the curious coincidence of the names of Elizabeth Parry and Susannah Parry, her mother, the former having married Halley Benson Millikin, the eventual heir of Mrs. Catherine Price, younger surviving daughter of the famous astronomer, Dr. Edmond Halley. This point was presented in our chapter on the Halley family, but it is worthy of repetition here.

Mr. Parry Slaughter is mentioned in some proceedings: " *Clater versus Young*," 1694, in the Public Record Office, London, relating to the Halleys.

Some members of the Day family have already been mentioned in the will of William Pyke, of Greenwich, poultorer, dated 1727. Some of those Days are named again in the two Halley wills following:—

" Francis Halley, of London, gent. To sonne Francis Halley and his heirs forever all my two messuages or residences in Mincin Lane (and) in Fenchurch St., and in case my sonne die without issue, to my sister Mary Ward wife of John Ward, for life, then to Nicholas Wright of the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate. £10 to sister Mary Ward. To my cousin Edmond Halley [astronomer] and Mary his wife and to their daughters, Margaret and Katherine; to my good friend David Grice and John Colson; to my father [-in-law] and mother [-in-law] Richard Pyke and Eleanor Pyke, to my brothers Thomas Pyke and William Pyke and Edward Day, and to my sisters Jane Day and Susan Pyke, each a guniea of gold to buy them rings. Cosen Edmond Halley and Richard Pyke, guardians of my said son Francis Halley until he shall attain the age of 21, and executors. Dated June 28, 1698. Witnesses: David Grice, Thomas Carr, Wm. Dean, Lau. Kerby, clerks to Mr. Carr. Proved by Edmond Halley and Richard Pyke, Sept. 8, 1702. (P. C. C., reg. Marlboro, fo. 126.)"

" Francis Halley, son of Francis Halley, late of London, gent., deceased. Cousin Mary Day £25 and a gold ring and £10 for mourning;

cousin Jane Day £25 and a ring. Cousin Richard Day the same. Cousin Catherine Halley £50 and a ring. Cousin Edmond Halley [junior] silver watch to be put into his mother's hands and she to give it him when she thinks fitt. Cousin Richard Jones son of John Jones my scrutore (*escriptoire*) and all my books. Grandfather Richard Pyke £10, and to my grandmother a ring, to her £10 for mourning. Uncle William Pyke £10 and a ring. Cousin Edmond Halley, sen'r £10 and a ring, his wife Mary £10. Residue to Uncle William Pyke. Grandfather Richard Pyke and uncle William Pyke, executors. Dated Oct. 22, 1717. Witnesses: Wm. Cooke, Sam. Hilman, John Hodgkins. Proved Aug. 5, 1718, by William Pyke, power reserved to Richard Pyke. (Commissary Court of London)."

Several interesting sketches of Days appear in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The present (1911) Registrar of the Diocesan Registry at Rochester, Kent, is Mr. Francis H. Day, who, by virtue of his office, is the custodian of certain records from which some of our data were procured. His family has resided in that vicinity at least since the end of the seventeenth century.

Notes and Queries, London, 11th series. Vol. II., page 486 (Dec. 17. 1910), *et seq.*
The Genealogist, new series. Vol. XXV., London. July, 1908.

Lt.-Col. G. S. Parry, of London, kindly supplied the particulars of the will of Mrs. Anne Parry, formerly Watkins, proved 1796. The will of Mrs. Sibella Stuart, of Dublin (1760), was furnished by a searcher in Dublin. The other notes are due to the diligence of Mr. Beevor.

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2

ROMANCE OF GENEALOGY

PART II

BY

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ROMANCE OF GENEALOGY

CHAPTER VI

DUMONT, TRAVERRIER AND REZEAU FAMILIES.

TRACING his ancestry from 1422, Isaac Dumont de Bostaquet, *Gentilhomme normand*, has given us an interesting genealogy in his "Memoires Inedits" (Paris, 1864). He has given us more than that, for his narrative is a spirited account of the "Glorious Revolution," of 1688, in England, in which he took an active part under William of Orange. The book is well worthy of being translated into English. Macaulay obtained access to the original manuscript while writing his history of England, but made little use of it, owing no doubt to the difficulty of deciphering the old Norman handwriting. Samuel Smiles, in "The Huguenots" devotes a chapter or two to Dumont de Bostaquet.

Members of the Dumont family early adopted the Protestant religion. We are told of one Bastienne du Mont, a native of Valenciennes, who was baptised in London, January 27, 1599. Other Dumonts (or du Monts) in France, persecuted for their religion, fled to Holland and changed their name into *van den Berg*. We have not, however, been able to establish the ancestry of one Wallerand Dumont, a French Huguenot, who was born at Coomen, then in Flanders (now Commines, Department du Nord, France, eight miles north of Lille). He was a cadet ("adelborst") in a company of soldiers sent by the Dutch West India Company, to Director-General Stuyvesant, in New Amsterdam, in 1657. Wallerand Dumont settled in Kingston, Ulster County, New York, rose to a position of influence, and married Grietje (Margaret) Hendricks, January 13, 1664, by whom he had, among other children, Peter Dumont, who was baptised April 20, 1679, at Kingston, and married, thirdly, November 16, 1711, Jannetje Vechten or Vechte (now Veghte). Of this union, one child was named Henry or Hendrick Dumont, born March 22, 1717. His will is dated November 4th, 1760. His first wife, to whom he was married December 20, 1743, was Mary (Marie) Traverrier, of Monmouth, called "the younger," to distinguish

her from her mother, Mrs. Marie Traverrier "the elder," wife of Peter Traverrier, junior, and daughter of Renier Rezeau of the Island of Ré, near La Rochelle, France, who, as a Huguenot, fled to America, about 1700. His daughter, Marie Rezeau (later Mrs. Peter Traverrier, jun.), had a French Testament which is still in the possession of some of her descendants near Cincinnati; Peter Traverrier, junior, was a son of Pierre Traverrier (or Traversier) senior, a ship-captain of "Masha," probably intended for Matha, located east of the village of La Tremblade and north of Bordeaux. We find the official record of the marriage of this Pierre Traverrier, senior, and Marie Arnaud, widow of Jean Parlier of La Tremblade, 20 April, 1688, in the registers of the old French Church in New York City. Confirmatory evidence in the form of the original marriage-contract in French, exists among the family papers still possessed by descendants in Vevay, Indiana. The traditions of this family are well preserved, and tell of landed estates in France which were confiscated during the period of religious persecution. It is stated that when the family (? Traverrier) then residing in Bordeaux, decided to seek refuge in another land, they prepared their table set with the family-plate, as for a banquet, with servants at work, and all as usual on such an occasion, whereupon the family going out ostensibly for a drive, forsook everything and boarded a ship in the harbor. The captain (? Traverrier himself) befriended them and hid them in hogsheads or large barrels having some holes in the side for air. The next we hear of them is in America, where their temporary means of support seems to have been a recipe for making perfumery, but the family soon reasserted itself and in a new and more hospitable land than their mother country as then ruled, commenced to work out a new destiny.

But let us return to our subject: "*les Dumont.*" Henry or Hendrick Dumont and Mary Traverrier, "the younger," his first wife, had a son, Peter Dumont, who was born on Staten Island, New York, October 1, 1744, and died in Vevay, Indiana, in 1821. This Peter Dumont married, October 25, 1770, Mary Lowe, daughter of Cornelius Lowe, son of Albert Lowe, of Dutch descent. Peter Dumont is seemingly identical with Peter Dumont, Captain, Second Battalion, Somerset County, New Jersey. Tradition says he was called from the field by

Washington and made a Commissary in charge of military stores at Van Ness' mills. A descendant possesses his original Commissary's book of munitions supplied "by order of General Washington." He (as Peter H. Dumont) was designated by the New Jersey Congress in 1777, to act as one of the Committee of Safety. Tradition says that Washington frequently conferred with him, and that owing to his devotion to the cause of his country, by night work at Van Ness' mills, he lost his sight. During the last twenty-five years of his life, his faithful wife read to him. The middle initial "H.," above mentioned, represents his father's name Henry, there being several Peter Dumonts co-existing in the same vicinity at that period and this was the customary way of distinguishing between them.

The late Senator F. T. Frelinghuysen's mother, Mrs. Jane Frelinghuysen, made a family record based on information given her orally by her father, Peter J. B. Dumont (born *circa* 1760, died May 19, 1846), to the effect that Hendrick Dumont's son, Peter, had a sister "Mary who married a Staats at Albany." There is, indeed, an official record at Albany of the marriage of one Mary Dumond to Henry Staats, November 15, 1770. The Staats family descended from Abraham Staats, who came from Holland to Albany in 1642. The writer received a genealogical inquiry not so long ago from Mr. P. D. Staats, 210 North Seventh Street, Newark, N. J., whose initials are suggestive of a Dumont family relationship.

Peter Dumont (born 1744) and Mary, his wife, had several children, among them Lydia, born at South Branch of Raritan River, N. J., August 30, 1773, died in Cincinnati, October 29, 1822, having married, June 28, 1792, Captain Moses Guest, of New Brunswick, N. J. They had issue of which further mention will be made in the chapter on the Guest family.

The Dumont family gave some notable characters to the United States. From that same stock were descended Senator Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, his brother Dumont Frelinghuysen, and Governor Peter Dumont Vroom all of New Jersey, Senator Samuel Beekman Dumont of Iowa, and Colonel John Dumont of Indiana whose wife, Mrs. Julia L. Dumont, was an early author and schoolmistress of our new West.

One of her pupils, none other than the late Edward Eggleston, contributed a glowing tribute to her character, in *Scribner's Monthly*, for March, 1879. General Ebenezer Dumont, son of Colonel John and Julia, his wife, was born in Vevay, Indiana, November 23, 1814; participated in the Mexican War and served in the war of the Rebellion, being engaged in several battles. He organized and led the celebrated pursuit of John Morgan. He was a member of Congress for four years, 1862-1866, and died, April 16, 1871, at his home south of Indianapolis, having just been appointed Governor of the then Territory of Idaho, which office he did not live to assume.

NOTES.

The American Genealogist (Ardmore, Pennsylvania), Vol. 1, No. 4 (June, 1899), pages 148-150.

“The Huguenots,” by Samuel Smiles, Appendix, page 468; also Chapters X—XI (London, 1868).

“The Making of New England,” by S. A. Drake.

“Une Famille d'Artistes: les Dumont,” by A. G. A. Vattier (Paris, 1890).

“Les Grands Hommes de France: Navigateurs,” by MM. Gœpp & Cordier (Paris, 1882).

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vols. 29, 30, 34, 37, 40. *See Indexes.*

“Tales of Our Forefathers” (Albany, New York, 1898).

L'Intermediaire des Chercheurs et Curieux (Paris, 1904), Cols. 338, 529, 595.

CHAPTER VII

GUEST FAMILY OF NEW JERSEY

THE Guests of New Brunswick who flourished 1750-1800, were, according to their traditions, descended from the family of that name in Birmingham, England, where indeed at least one church-register shows numerous entries of the patronymic.

Henry Guest, a tanner, of New Brunswick, was an American patriot, whose fortunes suffered not a little at the hands of the British army during the war of the Revolution, as evidenced by a sworn inventory of damages, still preserved in the State Library at Trenton.

But even war itself is sometimes enlivened by an amusing incident.

** Henry Guest, of New Brunswick, was a tanner, and was effectually curried by the enemy. In his inventory is an item of '122 Slaughter Hides from Fort Lee,' which just afterwards capitulated to the British. This item reviews the recollection of an incident of the Revolution which I have heard related by my grandfather [the late Jacob Dunham, M. D., of New Brunswick]. The British had erected a fort on the east bank of the Raritan opposite New Brunswick, hard by the county-bridge, which overlooked and commanded the town. From this fort they were expecting the approach of a body of American troops by way of the road from Trenton and Princeton, and were vigilantly on the lookout. One night Mr. Guest, whose tannery was on the extreme westerly bounds of the town, at the intersection of what is now Livingston avenue and New Street, put out a large number of hides to dry — possibly the identical ones above named — hanging them on his fences. When the sun rose next morning the British mistook these hides for the long-expected 'rebels,' and opened a brisk cannonade across the river upon them. But the fire made no impression on the foe, who held their position with the greatest firmness and good order. No British veterans were more unflinching than they and the matter began to wear a serious aspect. It was not until spy-glasses were brought to bear upon them that it was discovered that they had been spending the fire of their

*Extract from "A Glimpse of 'Seventy-Six,'" by Chas. D. Deshler, of New Brunswick, in Harper's Magazine, 1874,

batteries for several hours [*sic*] upon a lot of 'recreant' skins. When this was ascertained there was a sudden cessation of hostilities, and the joke becoming widely known, caused great merriment at the expense of the 'red-coats' among all good patriots in the town."

Among the papers possessed by a descendant of Henry Guest is an original and rather lengthy letter sent him by John Adams, dated at Quincy, February 5, 1811, addressed "Venerable Sir" and subscribed: "I am, Sir, your good Friend, John Adams."

Henry Guest married a Miss Foreman, of English descent, and, according to old family-bible records still extant, had issue:

- i William, born Dec. 17, 1753; died at Lansingburgh, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1826, aged 73 years; married —— and had one daughter (? Jane) who married a McNaughton and had one son Henry Guest McNaughton, last heard from (? *ante* 1868) near West Point, New York. He may, perhaps, have been identical with a physician, H. G. McNaughton, residing in Albany until a few years ago (*circa* 1898).
- ii Moses, born 1755; died 1828; of whom more hereafter.
- iii Henry (junior), born April 18, 1760; died at Albany, N. Y., July 9, 1820, aged 62 years; married a Miss Webster and had one daughter.
- iv A daughter, name unknown.

The old Guest mansion is still standing in New Brunswick. A large mirror once hanging on its walls was a prized heirloom in the possession of the writer's late venerable father.

The second son, Moses Guest, born in New Brunswick, November 7, 1755; married June 28, 1792, Lydia, daughter of Peter (H.) Dumont and Mary (*Lowe*) his wife. Moses Guest, following his father's footsteps, became a fur-trader and tells us in his "Journal" of an overland trip to Montreal. He later acquired a trading vessel, and says he followed the sea until 1788, making numerous trips along our Atlantic coast and to some of the West India islands. On one occasion, the

supply of fresh-water for drinking having been exhausted, Captain Guest rigged up an apparatus to distill sea-water and thus saved himself and crew. During his initial voyage to Charleston, South Carolina, he carried letters of introduction to Henry Laurens and Dr. David Ramsay, remarking in his account: "The Doctor treated me with much civility, but from Mr. Laurens I experienced an affectionate attachment such as I had never before met with from any person in all my travels."

Moses Guest took an active part in the American Revolution. He was an Ensign in Captain Voorhees' Company, Third Middlesex Regiment, on Sept. 8, 1777, and subsequently was a Captain in the Second Middlesex Regiment. He was in immediate command of the small body of Jersey militia which captured, October 26, 1779, Lieut.-Col. J. G. Simcoe, the leader of the Queen's Rangers. The story of Simcoe's raid into Jersey from Staten Island is an interesting chapter in the history of the War of Independence.

Captain Guest migrated from his native city of New Brunswick, September 29, 1817, "bound for Cincinnati." A part of the journey is described in his own words, thus:

"October 29. Left Pittsburg this day, in a flat-bottomed boat; its length 30 feet, and breadth 12. The sides and one end were boarded up about six feet high, a space of about five feet being left open at the other end. There was a tight roof over the boat, which extended as far as the sides were boarded up, just leaving room for two oars, one on each side, for the purpose of steering, as our only dependence for getting on was the current; there was a fireplace on one side of the boat. A great proportion of the families which migrate to the Western country, descend the Ohio [River] in boats similar to the one here described."

The "Journal and Poems" of Captain Guest issued from the press of Looker and Reynolds, Cincinnati, in 1823, and a new edition appeared in the following year.

Captain Guest and Lydia (Dumont) his wife both of whom excellent portraits exist, had, among other children, Lydia Jane Guest, born June 13, 1803, married John Mountain McPike, at Cincinnati,

March 9, 1820, as duly shown by the official records. Captain Guest died in Cincinnati, March 22, 1828.

NOTES.

Numerous collections of manuscript letters, etc., relating to the Dumont, Guest, Halley and McPike families, in the Newberry Library (Genealogical Department), Chicago, partially listed below:

Accession No. 89030 and catalogue No. E-7-M-239.

Accession No. 89106 and catalogue No. E-5-H-1529.

“Tales of Our Forefathers” (Albany, 1898).

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. XXIX, pages 100-102.

CHAPTER VIII

THE MCPIKE AND MOUNTAIN FAMILIES, IN THE UNITED STATES

“—— McPike from Scotland [married] Miss Haley (or Haly) from England; she was granddaughter of Sir Edmund Haley (astronomer), England. Children were: James M’Pike, Miss M’Pike. Miss M’Pike married M’Donald of Ireland.”

“Capt. James M’Pike, Scotch, from England, 1772, to U. S., Baltimore Served seven years with Washington, under Col. Howard and Gen. Little [?] of Baltimore. Also under command of Gen. Lafayette, Capt. James M’Pike married Martha Mountain.”

“J. Mountain, from New Jersey—English, about 1554 [? 1654]. Children: Joseph, John, Richard, Martha; also half-brother, George Grinup. Joseph Mountain married Miss E. Drake; one child, Joanna. Martha Mountain married Captain James M’Pike [? circa, 1789].”

So run the traditions preserved in writing after dictation (circa 1868) by the writer’s venerable grandfather, the late Judge John Mountain M’Pike (1795-1876). Another tradition transmitted

orally and less directly tells of a descent from the Stuarts or Stewarts of Scotland.

“Captain” James McPike (or M’Pike, formerly Pike or Pyke, *circa* 1750) appears to have been “quite young, not more than twenty-one years of age, if that,” when he migrated, in 1772, from Dublin or London to America. This would place his birth about 1751. It is said that he, as a youth, was placed under the care of a Macdonald and sent to Dublin to acquire a thorough military training but we find no evidence of the existence of any military academy in Dublin at that time. A tradition recites that his father, an educated Scotchman, was at one time a linen-merchant, and at another held a minor commission under the Stuarts, in Edinburgh, and, indeed, married a Miss Stuart, but there must be some confusion as to the precise generation or epoch involved. This association with the Stuarts still lacks confirmation by documentary evidence. The more obvious connection between the Halleys and Pykes, in and near London (*circa* 1694-1718) has already been noted in our previous chapters, with an indication as to the probable descent, subject, of course, as in all such matters, to ultimate verification.

We know little of the military services of James McPike during the American Revolution. The name occurs several times in the official rosters of that period. It seems quite possible that he was identical with the James McPike, sergeant in Captain Benjamin Fishbourne’s Company, Fourth Pennsylvania Line, William Butler, Lieutenant-Colonel. This belief is supported by two traditions, from different sources, that our “Captain” James McPike participated in the storming of Stony Point, in 1779, under Wayne, and was there wounded in one hand. The official records of that engagement show that some American sergeants were injured. It is known also that selected members, trusty soldiers, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Line belonged to Wayne’s Light Infantry Corps, or “Light Company,” as it was called, although a complete roster of the latter is not now extant. Major Benjamin Fishbourne was an aid-de-camp to General Wayne, in 1779. The fact that “Captain” James McPike served under Washington is very clearly set forth in several traditions through various channels. His descendant, the late Mrs. Charlotte Sleeth, of Rushville, Indiana,

in an affidavit made December 12, 1899, and of which a photographic facsimile is in the Newberry Library, Chicago, recites that her mother, Mrs. Charlotte Caldwell (formerly Frame, born McPike), then lately deceased, had a vivid recollection of the death of her paternal grandfather, "Captain" James McPike, and of his burial, as a soldier of the Revolution, with the firing of a military salute over his grave, at Newport, Kentucky, in 1825; also that shortly before his decease he expressed a desire to see General Lafayette, under whom he had served and who was then making his final visit to America. It is said that James McPike's death occurred just the day before or the day after Lafayette's arrival in Cincinnati. Wayne's "Light Company," previously mentioned, was reorganized in 1780, under Lafayette, who, in 1781, led it against Cornwallis.

"Captain" James McPike, as the traditions term him, married Martha Mountain, about 1789. The Mountains were derived from Hampshire, England, and a branch thereof resided in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in colonial days. James and Martha McPike had issue: Joseph, Richard, Elizabeth, Nancy, *Sarah*, John, *Haley*, George, Martha, James. The eldest son Joseph McPike lived in Newport, Kentucky, and with him his aged father spent his declining years. Joseph married Sarah Lindsey, removed to Rushville, Indiana, where he died *circa* Jan. 23, 1871, having had only one surviving child, Charlotte, above mentioned, who married first Dr. William Frame, secondly, a Mr. Caldwell, and died in Rushville, Indiana, May 16, 1899, leaving issue by her first marriage,—William Frame and Charlotte who was born in Rushville, Nov. 27, 1849, married George B. Sleeth, and died in Rushville *circa* 1906, survived by three daughters, Misses Nora, Charlotte and Mary Sleeth.

James McPike's second son, Richard, was born Dec. 6, 1791, served in the War of 1812, under General Jacob Brown, commander of artillery, at Cincinnati, according to tradition. Richard McPike married Oct. 15, 1815, Marie La Rue (born Oct. 5th, 1797), and had issue; numerous descendants now living. He died about 1873. His present representative, according to the old English law of primogeniture ("eldest son of eldest son") would be, we understand, Mr. Zebulon McPike (born March 30, 1860), of Hopewell, Missouri, who married Dec. 24, 1883, and has two daughters.

Richard McPike's next younger brother, John Mountain McPike (third son of James and Martha), was born February 5th, 1795, at Wheeling, then in Virginia, when his parents, James and Martha, with their young family were on their way down the Ohio river in a flat-boat, such as that on which Captain Moses Guest emigrated to the western country in 1817. John Mountain McPike at an early age went to Cincinnati and entered the printing-shop of Looker and Reynolds to learn the trade. He afterwards engaged in the printing business and removing to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, before 1825, edited and published *The Indiana Whig*, in 1834, devoted to the abolition of slavery. This required no little personal bravery at a border town like Lawrenceburg, on the Ohio river, a dividing line between slaveholding and free states. Tradition recites that in 1825 he was a member of the committee for the public reception of Lafayette at Cincinnati, presumably as a delegate from Lawrenceburg. There does not seem now to be in existence any list of the members of that committee. Governor James B. Ray, of Indiana, commissioned John McPike, lieutenant Light Infantry in the Fifty-fifth regiment of the militia of that state, July 24th, 1826. John McPike was an Associate Judge of Dearborn County, Indiana, 1830-1835, and in 1837, was elected Probate Judge. He removed to Wilmington, Indiana, and settled finally in Alton, Illinois, in December 1847 or January 1848, where he died in February, 1876. He married at Cincinnati, March 9th, 1820, Lydia Jane Guest (daughter of Captain Moses Guest and Lydia Dumont, his wife) by whom he had:—

- i. Edmund Haley [or Hailey] born in Cincinnati, Dec. 18, 1821; served in Mexican War; married and has several children living in California. [There is, however, another unrelated family of McPike in San Francisco.]
- ii. Henry Guest, born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, July 6th, 1825, died April 18, 1910, of whom a sketch will be appended.
- iii. George Dunn, born July 22, 1828; died Aug. 15; 1844, unmarried.
- iv. William Cowper, born March 7, 1836; died at Kansas City, Missouri, February 3rd, 1911. A prominent pharma-

ceutist; President of the McPike Drug Company of Atchison, Kansas, and later of Kansas City, wholesalers. He was survived by his widow, four daughters, Mrs. Robert McQueen, Mrs. W. T. Bland, Misses Blanche and Genevieve, and one son, Avis G.

Reverting now to the immediate children of the original James McPike (born *circa* 1751): The fourth son Haley, married a Miss Shaw (? of Missouri), was in War of 1812 under Governor Shelby, Kentucky militia; had two children: John, who died in Alton; George, who married "is in Arkansas" [*circa* 1868]. No later trace of descendants can be found, although some may be living in Missouri or Arkansas.

James McPike's fifth son George died single in Indiana; the sixth son, James died in infancy.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of James McPike and Martha his wife, married Jonathan Smith and had one child, Jeannette, who married Christopher Blackburn of Charlotte county, Virginia, and had one surviving child, Catherine, who married, first, Blair Patterson Hereford, a lawyer, who died leaving three daughters, Eudora, Anna and Katie; Mrs. Hereford married, secondly, Hon. A. C. Ellis and had issue, *inter alia*, a son, Hon. Wade H. Ellis, who became Attorney-General of the State of Ohio, and later Assistant to the Attorney-General of the United States. His mother died in Covington, Kentucky, *circa* 1908.

Nancy the second daughter of James and Martha McPike, married Richard Lindsey, of Greenville, Indiana, and had issue.

Sarah, her sister, married James Morehouse, and had issue.

Martha, the youngest daughter of James and Martha McPike, married James Dickens and had issue. Her only living grandchild, Mrs. Martha MacPike Stuart Clark (born Dickens, in 1885), is residing near the town of California, in Kentucky,

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CHAPTER IX

LYON, WELLS, FAIRFIELD AND THURBER FAMILIES

DR. ASHBEL WOODWARD, in his *Life of General Nathaniel Lyon* (Hartford, 1862) says that unquestionably our New England Lyons are derived from the noble family of that name in North Britain, from whom are descended the Earls of Strathmore. Various attempts by different investigators, to confirm this alleged relationship, have been made in vain. It is not easy to cite any conclusive evidence touching the ancestry of one William Lyon, who, aged 14 years, emigrated from London, on the *Hopewell*, to Boston, in 1635. He settled in Roxbury; became a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company; married Sarah Ruggles (born in England, April 19, 1629), and died about May 21, 1692, leaving issue, *inter alia*, John Lyon, born in Roxbury, in April, 1647, died January 15, 1703, having married May 10, 1670, Abigail Polley (born June 4, 1654; died Jan. 15, 1703), by whom he had:—

William Lyon, born in Roxbury, Sept. 15, 1675; died in Woodstock, Connecticut, Sept. 17, 1741; married, Nov. 8, 1699, first, Deborah Colborn (died April 18, 1714, aged 34), by whom he had:—

Aaron Lyon, born in Woodstock, January 11, 1706-7; died May 24, 1746; married, secondly, about April 9, 1740, Elizabeth Allen, by whom he had:—

Isaiah Lyon, born in Woodstock, Jan. 29, 1743; died in South Woodstock ("Quasset") Aug. 25, 1813; was, undoubtedly, identical with the Isaiah Lyon, private, in Captain Samuel McClellan's company,

of Woodstock ("36 horses rode") in the Lexington Alarm, April, 1775. Among family heirlooms is a Hessian gun said to have been used by him in the Revolutionary War. This relic will presumably pass into the hands of his descendant, Mr. Charles LeRoy Goulding, a jeweler, of Alton, Illinois. Isaiah Lyon married October 24, 1765, Sibyl Ranney, by whom he had:—

Luther Wells Lyon, senior, born in South Woodstock; died about 1851; married, first, Nancy Wells, his cousin, by whom he had, *inter alia*:—

Luther Wells Lyon, junior, born in South Woodstock, May 5, 1802; was a Free Mason; migrated to Illinois about 1840; died not intestate near Bethalto, Madison County, Illinois, July 30, 1885. He, like others of the family; was buried in the private cemetery on the farming estate of his son-in-law, the late Wiley G. Preuitt, near Bethalto. This cemetery was afterwards publicly dedicated by the latter, as now appears of record in Book No. 74, page 379 of the County Recorder's office at Edwardsville. According to family tradition and indeed from his own lips, Luther Wells Lyon, junior, was a third cousin of the brave General Nathaniel Lyon who served in the Mexican War and whose firm stand in the War of the Rebellion saved Missouri to the Union, but at the cost of his life, at the battle of Wilson's Creek, in 1861. Owing to some possible differences in the method of determining cousinships, it is not quite certain whether their respective grandfathers were brothers or first cousins. Luther Wells Lyon, junior, married February 27, 1831, Martha Wardwell Fairfield (died in 1870) by whom he had issue several children, including:—

Nannie Louise Lyon, born in Woodriver township, near Alton, Illinois, February 8th, 1844; married Henry Guest M'Pike, of Alton, October 12, 1869, and had issue one only child:—

Eugene Fairfield McPike, born in Alton, July 18, 1870; married at Chicago, September 2nd, 1895, Ada Florence Denton, only surviving daughter of John Denton and Elizabeth Waddingham, his second wife.

* * * * *

Nancy Wells (the first wife of Luther Wells Lyon, senior) was

born April 17, 1781, and died Jan. 3, 1815. She was a daughter of Henry Wells (born Jan. 28, 1753; died Oct. 14, 1823) and Nancy Shirtliff, his wife (born April 30, 1760; died April 24, 1815).

Martha Wardwell Fairfield, wife of Luther Wells Lyon, junior, was a daughter of David Fairfield (born about 1778; died about 1817) of Woodstock, and Hannah Thurber (born about 1781, perhaps in Providence, R. I.), his wife, who were married in Providence, Dec. 7, 1797. Hannah Thurber's father was William Thurber, of Providence, who became later a merchant in New York. David Fairfield and Hannah, his wife, had several children, from one of whom is descended Mrs. Carrie Corbin (born Fairfield), of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Corbin were married near Woodstock, Connecticut, at a point on the hills overhanging Putnam's famous wolf-den, which the present writer, as a boy, visited about 1878, during a brief sojourn in New England with his mother and maternal grandfather.

NOTES

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CHAPTER X

THE DENTON FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA

“SOME believe that the family of Denton came into Britain with the Romans; first, because it is a Roman name, as appears in two epigrams in Martial *in Dentonem*; secondly, from Julius Dentatus, a consul in Rome, who, after his consulship, came into England with Julius Agricola, and built a tower upon the Picts' wall, and called it Denton, supposed to be, and which, in all probability, may be that old tower at Denton Hall (Cumberland) which stands very nigh that old wall, and there never was any other known of that name. The first inhabitant we read of here was one Bueth, a Saxon, whose ancestors were lords thereof long before the Conquest.”

“Others believe Denton to be a Saxon family, because of the termination of the word in ‘on.’” (Cf. Burke’s *Landed Gentry*, for 1850, vol ii, Supplement, pp. 100-101; London, 1850.)

Concerning the ancient history of the family of Denton, we shall, for the present, rest content with the quotation of the foregoing remarks on the origin of that surname.

But we must not pass unnoticed an interesting story of how the Cumberland Dentons (the original stock of the family) obtained their coat-of-arms, viz., a lion with a sword in his paw, issuing from the top of a tower in flames, with the motto: “No Surrender.” It was thus: John Denton accompanied Balliol in his expedition against the Scotch, and when Balliol dispossessed Bruce he made grants of land to Denton and amongst other dignities made him Steward of the Royal domain of Annandale. Bruce fought to regain those lands, but Denton held on until the castle was in flames, the walls undermined and ready to fall. “A noble deed, and one to be remembered by all who have Denton blood in their veins.”

* * * * *

The notes following relate chiefly to a branch of the family formerly residing at Beverley, in Yorkshire, and to which belonged, it appears, one William (?) Denton, who flourished *circa* 1800-1825. He became a Government contractor and, according to tradition, erected several fortifications along the British coast. His kinsman, John Denton No. 1, was born in Yorkshire, *circa* 1791, and died in South Norwood, London, *circa* 1867-8, aged about 76 years, having married Mary Waddingham, May 27, 1819 (in Hotham Church, parish of St. Oswald’s, Hotham, Yorkshire), by whom he had issue, as follows:—William, born March 28, 1820; John, born April 6, 1822; Samuel, born *circa* 1834; Joseph.

William Denton (eldest surviving child of John Denton, No. 1, and Mary his wife) was born in Beverley, Yorkshire, March 28, 1820, and was baptized on the following day in the united parishes of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, of the same place. His parents then resided at Lair Gate, Beverley. He removed to London, engaged in the build-

ing business, and subsequently took up his residence at Folkestone, Kent, where he continued in the same occupation until he retired, shortly before his decease at Folkestone, July 20, 1905. He was thrice married, but died without issue, and was survived by his widow, Mrs. Harriet Denton, who caused to be erected in the cemetery at Folkestone, a monument to his memory. His will, dated August 13, 1904, proved at London, September 6, 1905, names his widow, his only surviving brother Joseph (since deceased) and his three nephews and one niece.

John Denton No. 2 (second surviving child of John Denton No. 1, and Mary his wife) was born in Beverley, April 6, 1822, and was baptized on the twelfth of the same month, in the united parishes of St. John and St. Martin, in Beverley. His parents' abode at that time is given as "Keld Gate." He settled in London and became a partner of his elder brother, William, in the building business. During the latter part of the year 1870 he removed to the city of Chicago, where he died intestate, March 13th, 1904. His remains were interred by those of his second wife, in Oakwoods Cemetery, Chicago. He married first, *circa* 1846, in Yorkshire, Mary Lawton (who died *circa* 1857, at No. 31, Margaretta Terrace, Chelsea, London), and by that marriage had surviving issue, as follows:—Robert Watson, born August 8, 1847; John, born August 8, 1849; Joseph, born October 28, 1853.

John Denton No. 2 married, secondly, at Chelsea, May 3rd, 1859, his own cousin, Elizabeth Waddingham (daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Waddingham; born at Hotham, Yorkshire, March 7, 1835; baptized March 19, 1835; died in Chicago, March 24, 1900), and by that second marriage had as surviving issue one only child, to wit:—Ada Florence, born February 8, 1870, at Addiscombe, Croydon, near London.

Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Waddingham, bore the maiden name Brabbs, since changed to Brabb, as borne now by several collateral descendants residing in Romeo, near Detroit, Michigan. Joseph Waddingham and Elizabeth his wife had several children, including a daughter who married a Park(s) of Collingwood, Ontario, of whom a son, Mr. Joseph Arthur Park and a daughter, Mrs. B. I. Angus, reside in Owosso, Michigan.

Samuel Denton (third surviving child of John Denton No. 1, and Mary, his wife), was born *circa* 1834; married Sophia. . . . , and died August 25, 1877, aged forty-three years, without issue. As there is no record of his will at Somerset House, London, it appears that he died intestate. He was for some years manager for the firm of Merry and Nutter, in Whitechapel, London.

Joseph Denton (fourth surviving child of John Denton No. 1, and Mary, his wife), married, and died August 22, 1910, at Folkestone, as a widower and childless.

Robert Watson Denton, builder, of 49 High Street, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent (eldest surviving child of John Denton No. 2, and Mary, his first wife) was born in Yorkshire, August 8, 1847; married Minnie , and has issue: William, Cyril, Emma Gwendolyn, Elsie, Florence Beatrice.

John Denton, No. 3, of Chicago (second surviving child of John Denton No. 2 and Mary his first wife), was born at Market Weighton in Yorkshire, August 8, 1849. He removed to America, *circa* 1871, his present residence being in Frankfort, Benzie County, Michigan. He married, first at Burlington, Iowa, Jane Wright (born in Cambridge, England, July 6, 1849; died in Hobart, Indiana, March 25, 1876) and by her had issue:—Thirza Agnes, born in Burlington, Iowa, September 29, 1871; Edmund James, born in Hobart, Indiana, August 7, 1874.

John Denton No. 3 married, secondly, in Chicago, March 7, 1881, Emma (born February 6, 1855), and by this second marriage has issue as follows:—Olive Edna, born in Chicago, March 12, 1882; Esther Emma, b. *ibid.*, October 11, 1883; Bessie Ada, b. *ibid.*, September 6, 1885; Valentina Jennie, b. *ibid.*, February 14, 1888; Robert Joseph, b. *ibid.*, February 6, 1890; John Edgar, b. *ibid.*, January 16, 1892; Ruth Helen, b. *ibid.*, September 14, 1893; Mary Elizabeth, b. *ibid.*, August 27, 1895.

Joseph Denton (third surviving child of John Denton No. 2, and Mary his first wife) was born at No. 31, Margaretta Terrace, Chelsea, London, October 28th, 1853; married December 14, 1880, May O.

Willson; no issue. Now residing in Osage City and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ada Florence Denton (only surviving child of John Denton No. 2 by Elizabeth, his second wife) was born at No. 1, Maitland Vilas, Canning Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, London, February 8, 1870; married at Chicago, September 2, 1895, Eugene Fairfield McPike (son of Henry Guest McPike and Nannie Louise Lyon, his wife), now resides at No. 723, East Forty-second Street, Chicago, and has issue:—

Elizabeth McPike, born at Chicago, June 11, 1897;

Helen McPike, b. *ibid.*, October 19, 1903.

Thirza Agnes Denton (eldest daughter of John Denton No. 3 and Jane his first wife) was born at Burlington, Iowa, September 29, 1871; married, first, at Chicago, April 30, 1901, Ebenezer Read, who died February 4, 1902, without issue. The latter's widow married, secondly, Henry Chapman Perdue, April 22, 1904, and has issue:

James Denton Perdue, born January 25, 1907.

Edmund James Denton (eldest son of John Denton No. 3, and Jane his first wife) was born at Hobart, Indiana, August 7, 1874; married, June 2, 1893, Mrs. Susie —, born Jackson, and has issue:—

Eleanor Elizabeth, born November 13, 1905.

EUGENE F. MCPIKE.

135 Park Row, Chicago.

NOTES

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